

Appendix A. Coal Screening Process

A.1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the land use planning process (regulated under 43 CFR 1600), surface management agencies are charged with screening public land resources through a series of criteria. This separates lands suitable for development of coal resources from those unsuitable, because of potential resource conflicts with coal development (43 CFR 3420.1-4(d)).

This appendix describes the screening process for coal resources undertaken by the BFO, complying with 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e)(1-4). The screening process informs potential land use decisions regarding acceptability for coal leasing under the alternatives analyzed in the BFO SEIS/RMPA.

The BLM used a coal screen developed for the 2001 RMP revision for the 2015 Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which authorizes federal coal resources in the planning area. To date, the BLM has issued 131,837 acres of BLM-administered federal coal for coal leases in the BFO planning area.

The coal screen described in this appendix provides updated information on coal potential and criteria resources in the BFO decision area since it was last screened in 2001.

A.2 REGULATORY OVERVIEW

Federal coal resources are governed by Section 522(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and the regulations at 43 CFR 3400 and 1600. One aspect of coal leasing governed under these regulations is land use planning (43 CFR 3420.1-4(d) and 1610.7-1) and the review of federal lands for suitability for coal leasing (43 CFR 3461). These regulations identify certain lands as categorically unacceptable for leasing because they contain significant values that conflict with coal development. These include components of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National System of Trails, and incorporated cities, towns, and villages, among other entities. Other areas disqualified for leasing are critical habitat for threatened and endangered species and cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The regulations at 43 CFR 3420 govern the land use planning process as it pertains to coal, including the four-step screening process for identifying areas acceptable for further consideration for leasing (43 CFR 3420.1-4). Under this process, the BLM must complete the following:

- Identify coal with development potential—Lands determined to have development potential are considered acceptable for further consideration for leasing and are applied to the remaining coal screens. Lands determined to not have development potential are eliminated from further consideration for leasing.
- Apply unsuitability criteria—Lands with coal potential are assessed with procedures outlined in 43 CFR 3461. Lands with coal potential may be eliminated from further consideration from leasing if determined to be unsuitable without stipulation or exception.
- Analyze multiple use conflict—43 CFR 3420.1-4e (3) states that “multiple land use decisions shall be made which may eliminate additional coal deposits from further consideration for leasing, to protect resource values of a locally important or unique nature not included in the unsuitability criteria.” Multiple use values may include possible oil and gas development, soil, forest, wildlife, recreation, agriculture, and watershed resources. Lands with coal potential may be eliminated from further consideration for leasing where multiple uses conflict.

- Consult surface owners—This screen requires the BLM to consult with qualified surface owners whose land overlies federal coal with development potential. The BLM asks the qualified surface owners for their preference for or against offering the coal deposits under their land for lease. Lands with coal potential may be eliminated from further consideration for leasing, based on qualified surface owner preference.

The BLM will undertake additional analysis and consultation, as necessary, before it issues new leases.

A.3 SCREENING PROCESS OVERVIEW

A.3.1 Screen 1—Coal Development Potential

The BLM determined the coal development potential area (CDPA) for the BFO using stripping ratios, where appropriate and available. The BLM used drill data from the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, where the BLM's own data were not available.

The adjustment of the CDPA is based on coal quality and stripping ratio; that is, the cost to produce. Coal quality is measured partly by the British thermal unit (BTU) range at which it burns, with higher quality coal burning hotter; that is, at a higher BTU. Mines in the northern part of the decision area produce coal that burns in the 8,200 to 8,400 BTU range, the mines in the central part of the decision area produce in the 8,400 to 8,600 BTU range, and the mines in the southern part of the decision area produce in the 8,600 to over 8,800 BTU range.

To balance the cost of production and quality, and in keeping with the current pricing in the coal market, the BLM used stripping ratios of 4:1, 5:1, and 6:1 for mines in the northern, central, and southern parts of the decision area, respectively.

The BLM applied a stripping ratio of 4:1 to the area around the mines in the northern part of the decision area: the Rawhide, Eagle Butte, Wyodak, and Dry Fork mines. The BLM applied a stripping ratio of 5:1 to the area around mines in the middle part of the decision area: the Caballo, Belle Ayr, Cordero Rojo, and Coal Creek mines. Finally, The BLM applied a stripping ratio of 6:1 to the area around mines in the southern part of the decision area: the Black Thunder, School Creek, North Antelope/Rochelle and Antelope mines.

The stripping ratio is most accurate and most predictive near the western end of active mines. This is because this is where most drill data are collected, in anticipation of westward progression of mining activity. Where BLM data were sparse—notably, the east side of the Southern Mine Group—the BLM used Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission drill data to determine the availability of coal; the BLM modified the CDPA to reflect these findings. Although there is coal on the eastern boundary of the Southern Mine Group, available data suggest what is available is not economic to develop.

A.3.2 Screen 2—Unsuitability Assessment

The BLM BFO interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed available data and solicited expertise from state and federal agencies to assess the applicability of each of the 20 unsuitability criteria to the decision area. **Table A-2** provides a detailed breakdown of each criterion, lands found unsuitable under each criterion, and total acreages identified and designated as unsuitable for coal development under each criterion.

For BLM-administered federal coal resources beneath state lands, the BLM will consult with the Wyoming governor's office during the governor's consistency review for the EIS, in accordance with 43 CFR 3420.1-7.

The United States Forest Service screens and makes the allocation decision for federal coal beneath the Thunder Basin National Grassland surface; the BLM consults with that agency during lease actions.

A.3.3 Screen 3—Evaluation of Multiple Land Use Decisions to Protect Other Resource Values and Land Uses

Within the range of alternatives analyzed in the BFO Final SEIS/RMPA, the BLM could eliminate additional coal deposits from further consideration for leasing. The BLM would do this to protect other resource values and land uses, where they are not protected under the 20 unsuitability criteria through coordination with other government agencies and organizations. Additional coal deposits can be eliminated from further consideration for leasing through site-specific analyses completed before lease sales. Because almost all BLM-administered federal coal deposits lie beneath lands owned or administered by other entities, the BLM will consult with those entities before eliminating the federal coal deposits beneath them from further consideration for leasing.

A.3.4 Screen 4—Consultation with Qualified Surface Owners

Because almost all BLM-administered federal coal deposits lie beneath lands owned or administered by other entities, the BLM will consult with those entities before eliminating the federal coal deposits beneath them from further consideration for leasing.

The BLM sent letters to all identifiable private surface owners with parcels overlying BLM-administered federal coal resources in Campbell County only (Sheridan County was removed with the coal development potential Screen 1). The BLM requested that the surface owners confirm that they are qualified to express their preference on mining federal coal resources (see 43 CFR 3400.0-5[gg][1] and [2]). The BLM also asked that the surface owners respond with their preference for or against mining by other than underground methods—that is, surface mining—on the BLM-administered federal coal resources beneath their land. A sample of the letters sent to private surface owners can be found in **Attachment I**.

In order to be a qualified surface owner in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 3400.0-5, the individuals must have the following characteristics:

- Hold legal or equitable title to the surface of split estate lands
- Have their principal place of residence on the land or personally conduct farming, or ranching operations on a farm or ranch unit to be affected by surface mining operations, or receive directly a significant portion of their income, if any, from such farming and ranching operations
- Have met the first two conditions for a period of at least 3 years, except for persons who gave written consent less than 3 years after they met the requirements

In computing the 3-year period, the BLM Authorized Officer should include periods during which the title was owned by a relative of such person by blood or marriage if, during such periods, the relative would have met the requirements of this section.

The BLM will verify qualified surface ownership and surface owner preference for or against mining by other than underground methods (surface mining) before issuing any lease for federal coal resources beneath privately owned parcels. No leases for surface mining will be issued without qualified surface owner consent.

A.4 COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL RESULTS

Total acres of BLM administered coal with development potential for Alternative B and the Proposed Plan are tabulated under **Table A-I**. Alternative B is mapped in **Figure A-I**.

Table A-1
BLM Administered Coal Resources in the Alternative B and Proposed Plan

Federal Coal Status	Alternative B (acres)	Proposed Plan (acres)
BLM Administered Coal with current federal leases	481,139	521,986
BLM Administered Coal, excluding current federal coal leases	349,302	390,149

Source: BLM GIS 2019

A.5 UNSUITABILITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The acres designated unsuitable under each unsuitability criterion are tabulated under **Table A-2**; areas identified as unsuitable under each of the unsuitability criteria are mapped in **Figures A-2** through **A-9**. For each criterion, resources that trigger unsuitability are identified. (Note that the resources identified are not exhaustive of that type of resource in the decision area but are only those resources that overlies areas with coal potential identified under Screen 1 and that result in unsuitable designation.)

Acreages are not additive across the table because of overlapping resources, such as Wilderness Study Areas, which drive unsuitability also designated as Visual Resource Management Area I and therefore subject to both Criteria 5 and 6. The Proposed Plan acreage total includes the acres identified in Alternative B and the additional acres included in the Proposed Plan.

Table A-2
Application of Unsuitability Criteria

Criterion	Criterion Name and Applicable Resources in the Planning Area, Including Data Sources	Acres Unsuitable in the Alternative B	Acres Unsuitable in the Proposed Plan
Criterion 1	Federal lands for preservation, such as for National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and Wilderness Areas: Cities (13,290 acres) Source: BLM surface ownership layer	13,290 acres	13,290 acres
Criterion 2	Federal lands within rights-of-way (ROWs) or easements or surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial, or other public purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonlinear ROWs—204 acres for the Alternative B and 206 acres for the Proposed Plan Linear ROWs—117 acres for the Alternative B and 193 acres for the Proposed Plan Source: BLM ROWs and easements layer	321 acres	399 acres
Criterion 3	Buffer zones along road ROWs and next to communities, public schools, occupied dwellings, churches, public parks, and cemeteries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings—17,244 acres for the Alternative B and 17,411 acres for the Proposed Plan County roads—2,033 acres for the Alternative B and 2,251 acres for the Proposed Plan State highways—WY 59, WY 450 (773 acres for the Alternative B and 853 acres for the Proposed Plan) Interstate highways—I-90 (466 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan) 	21,182 acres	21,647 acres

Criterion	Criterion Name and Applicable Resources in the Planning Area, Including Data Sources	Acres Unsuitable in the Alternative B	Acres Unsuitable in the Proposed Plan
Criterion 3 (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US highway—US 16 (339 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan) Cemeteries—315 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan Agency roads—12 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan <p>Sources: Campbell County building and cemetery layers; Sheridan County building layer; BLM transportation layer</p>	(see above)	(see above)
Criterion 4	Wilderness Study Areas Source: BLM wilderness study area layer	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 5	Scenic areas Source: BLM Visual Resources Management layer	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 6	Scientific study ¹ Source: 2001 BLM RMP	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 7	Historic lands and sites Source: BLM cultural layer	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 8	Natural areas Source: BLM surface ownership	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 9	Federally designated critical habitat for threatened and endangered species Source: USFWS critical habitat layer	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 10	State listed threatened and endangered species ²	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 11	<p>Bald and golden eagle sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bald eagle nest buffers—1,670 acres for the Alternative B and Proposed Plan Golden eagle nest buffers—12,066 acres for the Alternative B and 15,701 acres for the Proposed Plan <p>Source: BLM raptor nest layer</p>	13,736 acres	17,371 acres
Criterion 12	Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas Source: BLM eagle roost layer	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 13	Falcon nesting sites Source: BLM raptor nest layer	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 14	Migratory birds of high federal interest Source: USFWS	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 15	<p>Habitat for species of state interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Sage-Grouse leks—1,407 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan Sharp-tailed grouse leks—735 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan Burrowing owl habitat—6,753 acres for the Alternative B and 7,959 acres for the Proposed Plan Elk crucial winter range—1,954 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan Elk calving areas—25 acres for the Alternative B and the Proposed Plan 	17,627 acres	20,039 acres

Criterion	Criterion Name and Applicable Resources in the Planning Area, Including Data Sources	Acres Unsuitable in the Alternative B	Acres Unsuitable in the Proposed Plan
Criterion 15 (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swift fox habitat—6,753 acres for the Alternative B 7,959 acres for the Proposed Plan Sources: WGFD big game seasonal ranges and migration corridor layers; WGFD sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse lek layers; WGFD sage-grouse core population and connectivity corridor layers; WGFD prairie dog layer	(see above)	(see above)
Criterion 16	100-year floodplain Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency national floodplain hazard layer	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 17	Municipal watersheds Source: Campbell and Sheridan Counties	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 18	Natural resource waters Source: 2001 BLM RMP	0 acres	0 acres
Criterion 19	Alluvial valley floors Source: US Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement potential alluvial valley floors layer	12,202 acres	13,265 acres
Criterion 20	State proposed criteria Source: BLM Washington Office	0 acres	0 acres

Source: BLM GIS 2019

¹ No scientific study areas have been determined unsuitable.

² No Wyoming Endangered Species Act

A.6 RESULTS OF MULTIPLE LAND-USE DECISIONS

In addition to the areas eliminated from further consideration for coal leasing by the unsuitability criterion under Screen 2, above, land use decisions to protect resources of high value to the public may eliminate additional coal deposits from further consideration (**Figure A-10**). No lands or resource conflicts were identified in the 2015 Proposed RMP/Final EIS that would restrict coal development beyond the areas identified under the unsuitability criteria (Screen 2). **Table A-3** includes multiple use conflicts that the BFO decided not to remove as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing; it also shows the rationale behind the decisions.

The BLM considered air quality when completing the multiple-use screen. Existing data and modeling done for the 2015 Proposed RMP/Final EIS showed no air quality standards were exceeded, based on the national ambient air quality standards under the Clean Air Act; therefore, the BLM did not designate the resulting geographic area as not suitable for further leasing of coal.

There is presently insufficient data for an accurate wetland assessment in the Alternative B or Proposed Plan area. Wetlands would be inventoried as part of the leasing application process, where the BLM would make a determination of unsuitability, in coordination with the US Army Corp of Engineers and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

After close review of resources and in consultation with state and federal agencies, the BLM recommended a number of resources as unsuitable for coal leasing, due to conflicts in use; therefore, the BLM eliminated them from further consideration for coal leasing under Screen 3.

Table A-3
Multiple Use Conflicts Not Recommended as Unacceptable for Coal Leasing

Resource Topic	Resource Potentially in Conflict with Coal	Reason for not Analyzing
Soils	Soils with depths less than 50 centimeters	Scattered distribution, with limited geographic extent
	Sandy and clayey soils	Scattered distribution, with limited geographic extent
	Reclamation resistant soil chemistries	Scattered distribution, with limited geographic extent
Grazing	Livestock allotments	Allotment acreages sufficient to accommodate limited development
Solid minerals	Salable mineral pits	7 contracts in the Alternative B and 1 contract in the additional Proposed Plan; no direct conflict anticipated
	Locatable mineral plans of operations	Two free use permits in the Alternative B ; no direct conflict anticipated
	Uranium	No potential uranium areas in the Alternative B
	Wyoming Department of Environment Quality mining permits	23 permits in the Alternative B; no direct conflict anticipated
	Active mining claims	No active claims in the Alternative B
Fluid minerals	Active wells	663 wells in 27 unitized areas in the Alternative B and an additional 95 wells and 1 unit in the additional Proposed Plan; following resolution of IBLA 2018-203, the BLM determined that coal leases would suspend oil and gas activities where the two conflict.

Source: BLM GIS 2019

In sum, 933 acres were excluded from leasing under this screen for Alternative B and the Proposed Plan. Resources removed from further consideration because of their significance and potential conflict with coal development are a municipal airport (697 acres) and a special recreation management area (236 acres).

A.7 RESULTS OF CONSULTATION WITH QUALIFIED SURFACE OWNERS

The BFO mailed letters to 372 private landowners who own property larger than 40 acres in the decision area. The BLM included an addressed, postage-paid envelope to encourage response. The 40-acre threshold was based on the qualification criterion that a significant portion of income should come from the parcel. Corporate landowners were included in those who were sent letters; this is because the parcels they own may likely provide significant income, even where there may not be principal residences on the property.

Letters were sent on January 30, 2019, requesting response by March 1, 2019, and requested verification of landowner qualifications, opinion on leasing federal coal beneath their surface (favor, against, and undecided), and inquiring if they have previously provided consent for surface mining (see example letter in **Attachment I**). Results are listed in **Table A-4**; landowner response letters are included in the Decision File.

There is no significant opposition to mining in the areas with the highest likelihood of coal mining. The owners objecting to mining are mostly separated from active mines or are in areas having moderate to low development potential. No areas were made unsuitable, based on landowner response. Before potential leases are delineated, surface owners would again be contacted as to their preference for or against surface coal mining, in accordance with the BLM Coal Leasing Handbook.

Table A-4
Private Surface Owner Response within All Alternatives

Surface Owner Consultation	Status	Letter Number	Percent Response	Acres Represented
Letter Delivery	Sent	372	—	977,000
	Delivered	367	99	975,000
	Returned by US Postal Service	3	1	1,520
Landowner response rate	Responses received	160	43	472,000
	Delivered without response	207	56	504,000
Landowner opinion on leasing	For	66	18	218,000
	Against	45	12	112,000
	Undecided	41	11	87,000
	Received, no response	8	2	53,000

Source: BFO 2019

A.8 CONCLUSION

The information above describes the processes for and outcomes of the BLM's screening process to identify lands acceptable for further consideration for leasing, in accordance with federal regulations governing federal coal management and land use planning. The allocations resulting from this process are included in the alternatives considered in the BFO SEIS/RMPA. These allocations are intended to cover the entire coal potential area for the BLM-administered federal mineral estate in that document. This was done to allow future coal leasing decisions in these areas to proceed without a need to amend the decisions in the SEIS/RMPA. The BLM will undertake additional site-specific analyses and consultation, as necessary, before issuing new leases.

Table A-5
Coal Screening Results

Coal Screen	Results	Acres in Alternative B	Acres in Proposed Plan
Coal screen #1	Coal development potential	481,139	521,986
Coal screen #2	No exception	24,791	25,854
	Exception	34,826	39,927
Coal screen #3	Multiple use	881	881
Coal screen #4	Consultation with landowners	0	0

Source: BLM GIS 2019

A.9 REFERENCE

BLM GIS. 2019. GIS data on file with the BLM's eGIS server, used for calculations or figures related to the coal development strategy. BLM, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming.

Figure A-1
Unsuitability Screening Results



Figure A-2
Screen 1 Coal Development Potential

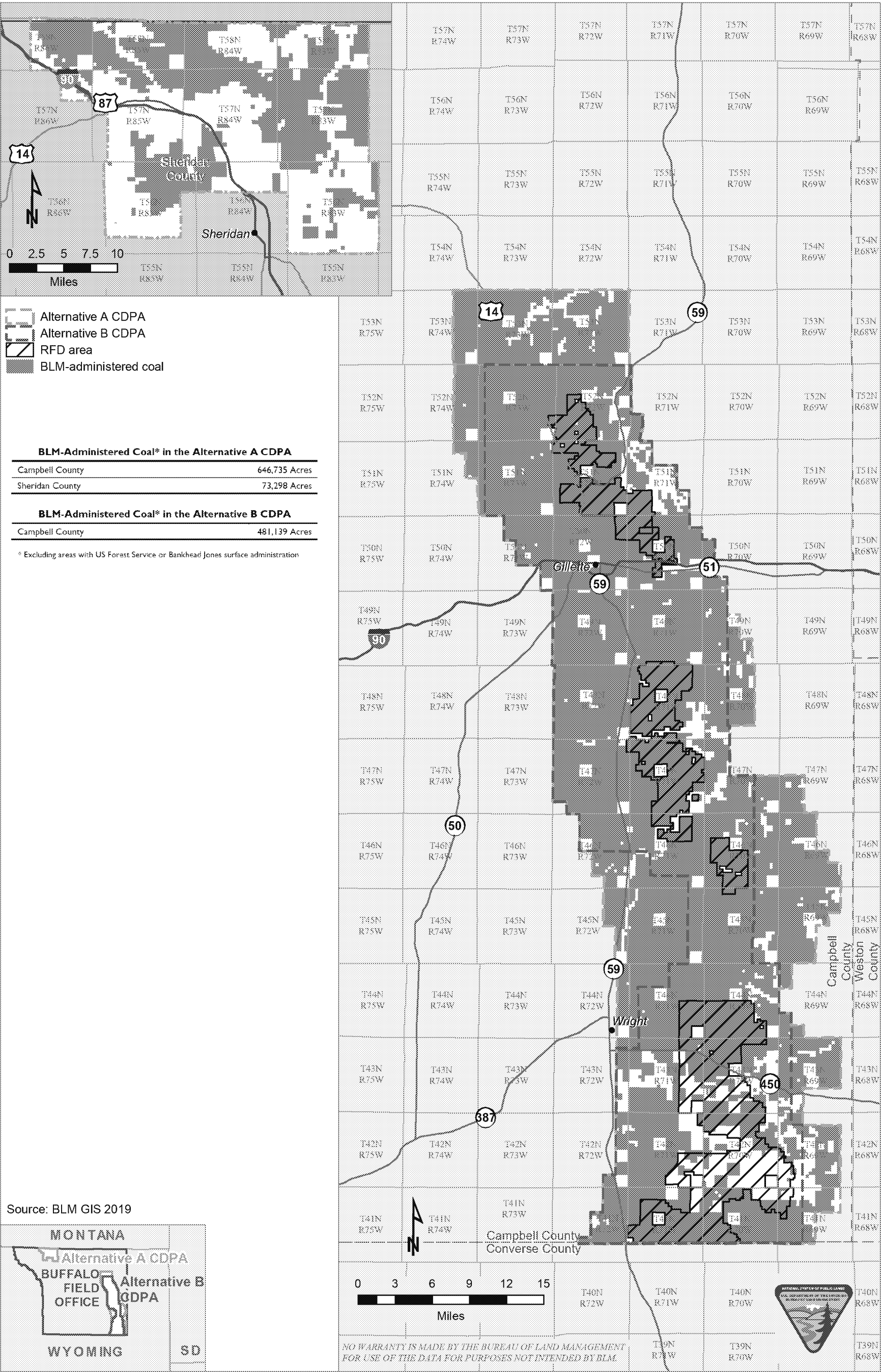


Figure A-3
Screen 2 Unsuitability Assessment:
Criterion 2 (Unsuitable With Exceptions)—Federal Lands within Rights-of-Ways

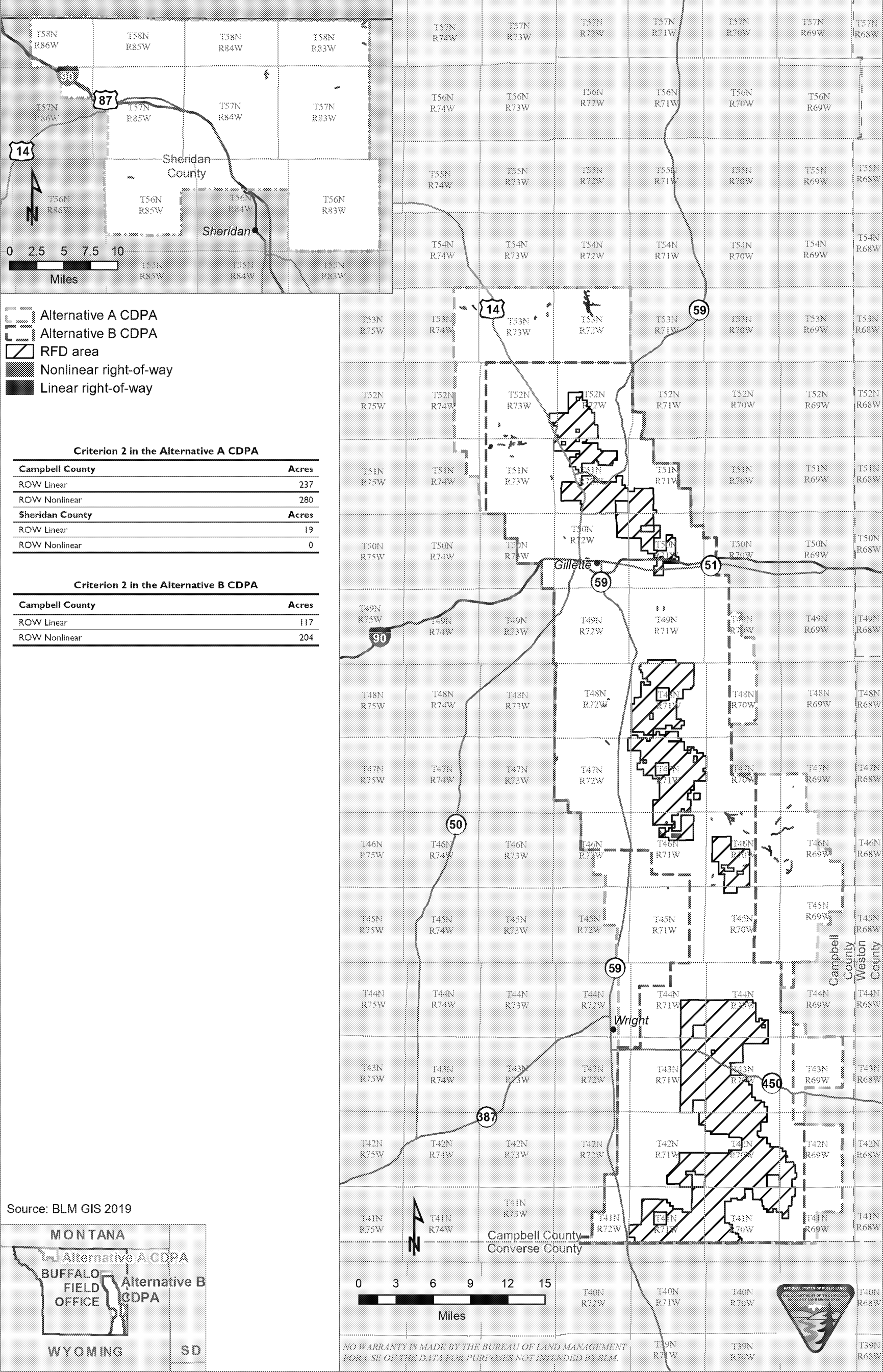


Figure A-4

Screen 2 Unsuitability Assessment:

Criteria 1 and 3 (Unsuitable Without Exceptions)—Buffer Zones along Public Roads, Schools, Parks, and Other

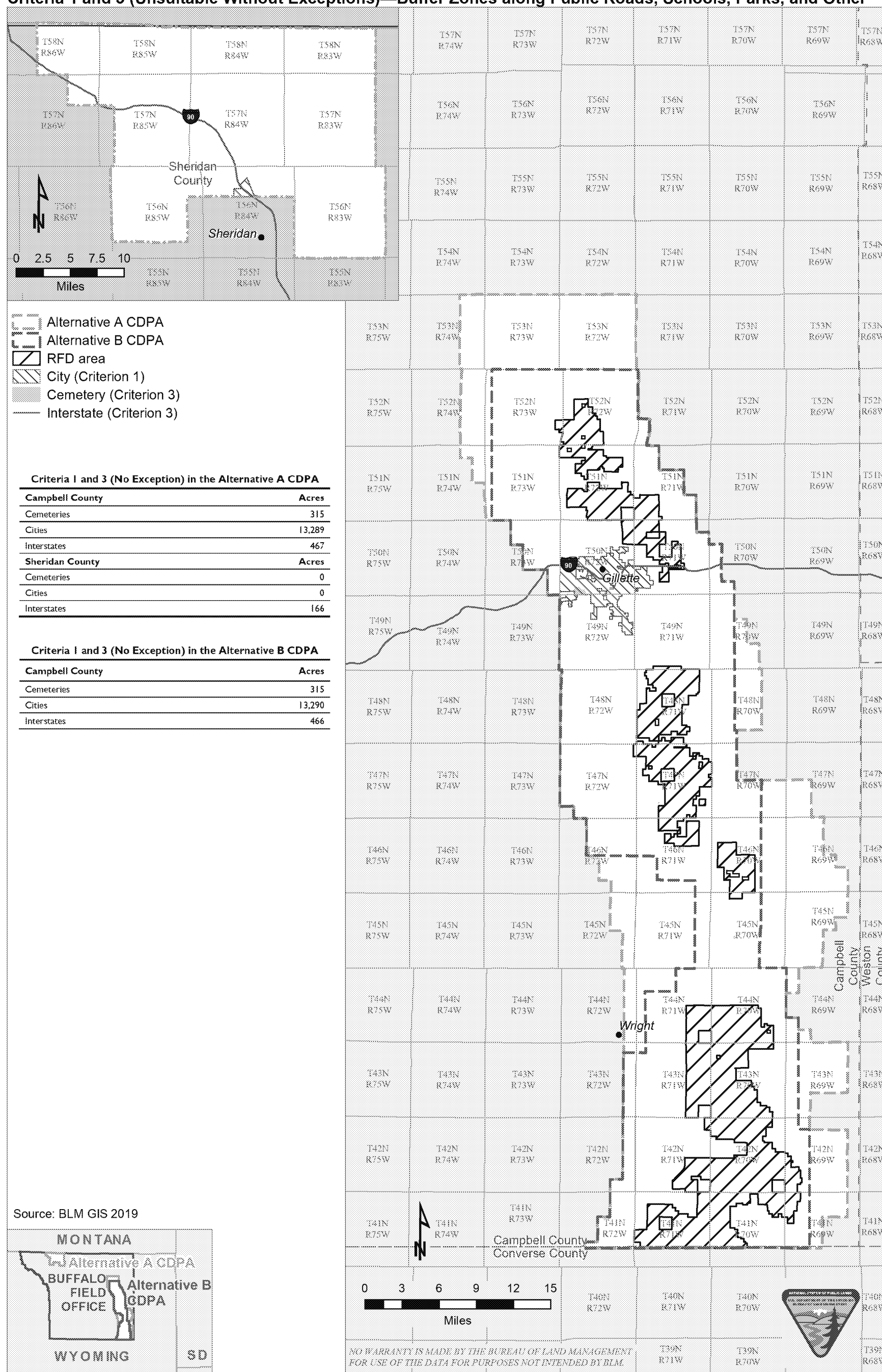


Figure A-5

Screen 2 Unsuitability Assessment:

Criterion 3 (Unsuitable With Exceptions)—Buffer Zones along Public Roads, Schools, Parks, and Other

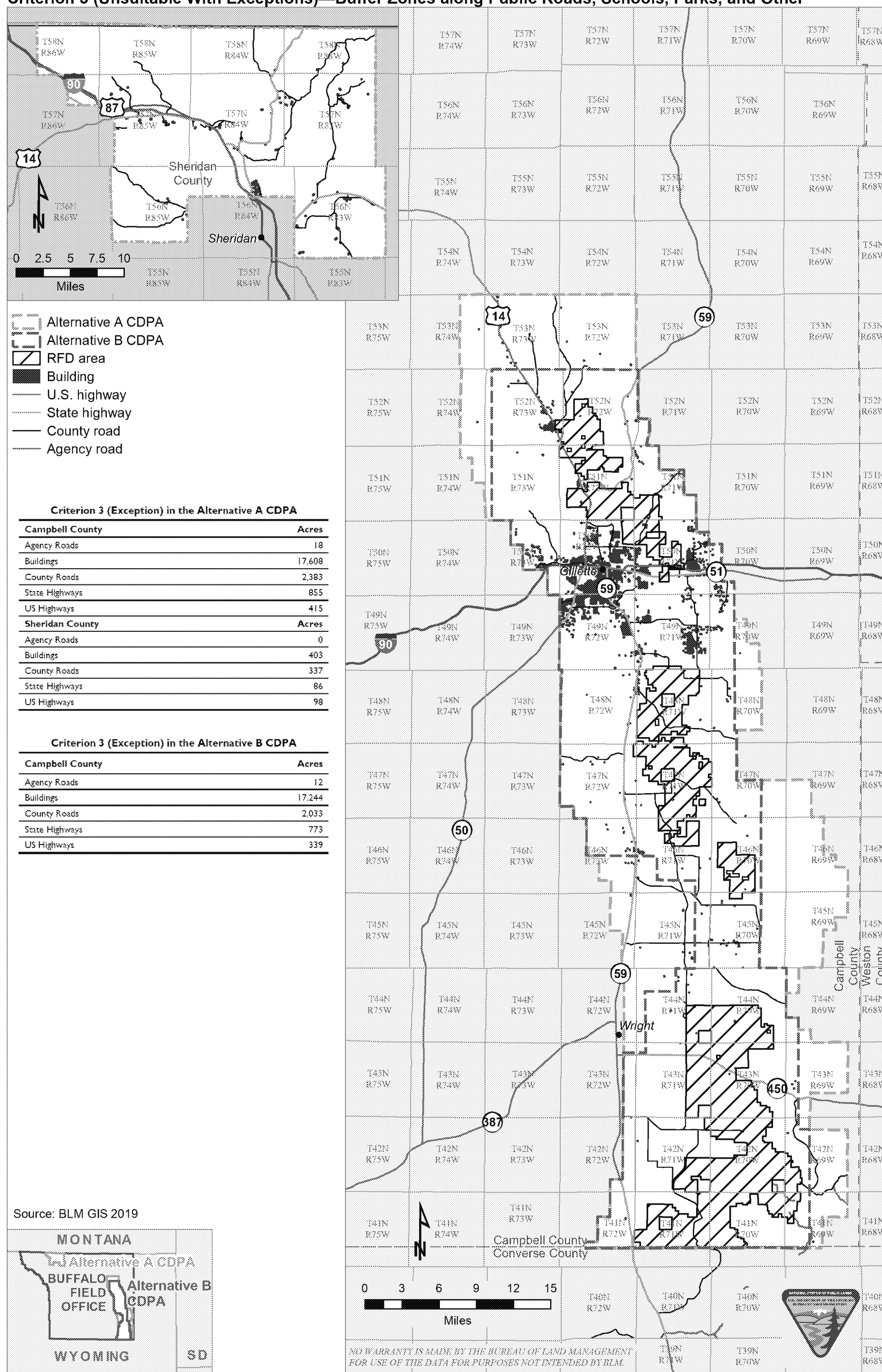


Figure A-6
Screen 2 Unsuitability Assessment:
Criterion 7 (Unsuitable With Exceptions)—Historic Lands and Sites

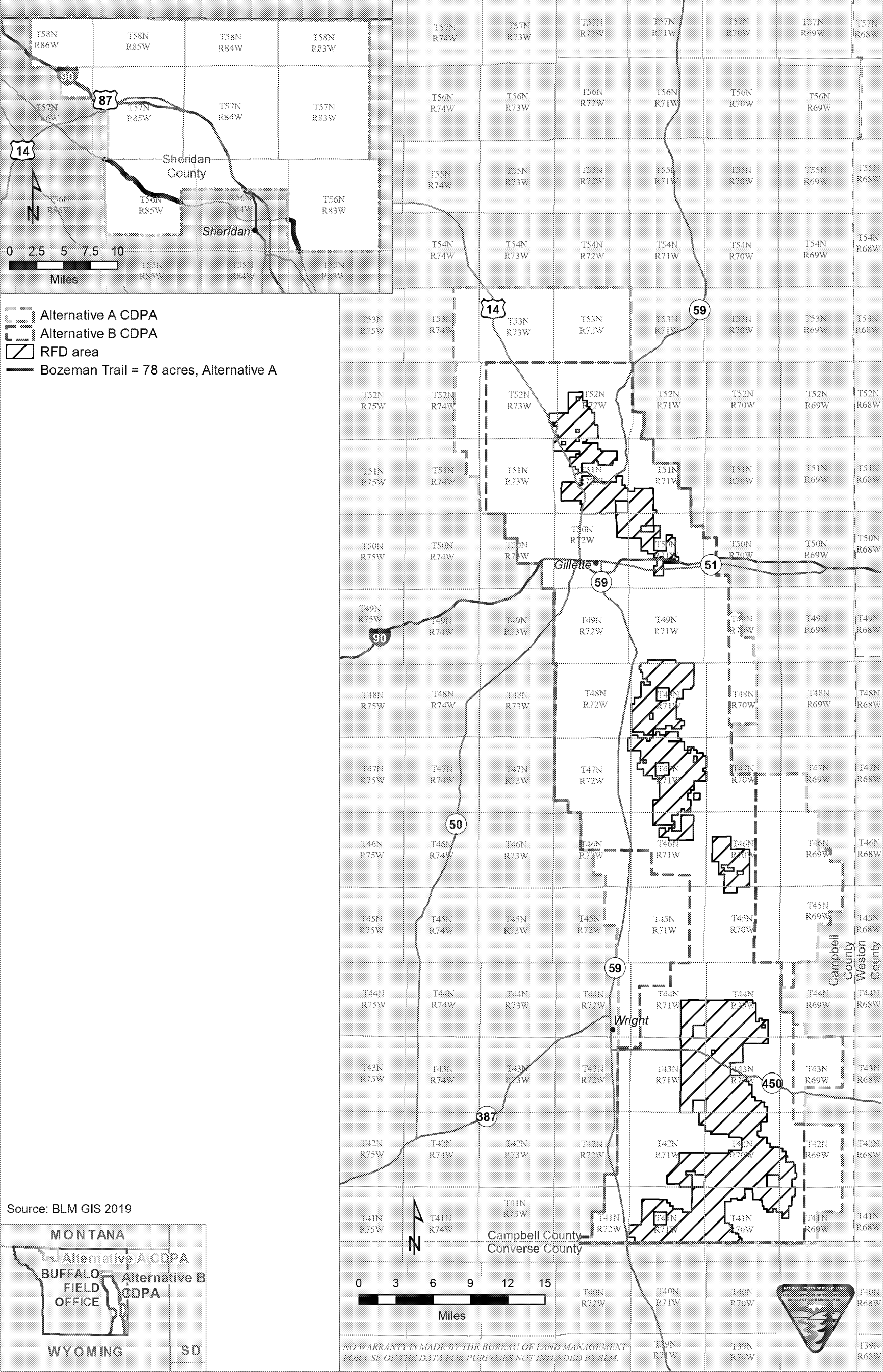


Figure A-7
Screen 2 Unsuitability Assessment:
Criterion 11 (Unsuitable With Exceptions)—Bald and Golden Eagle Sites

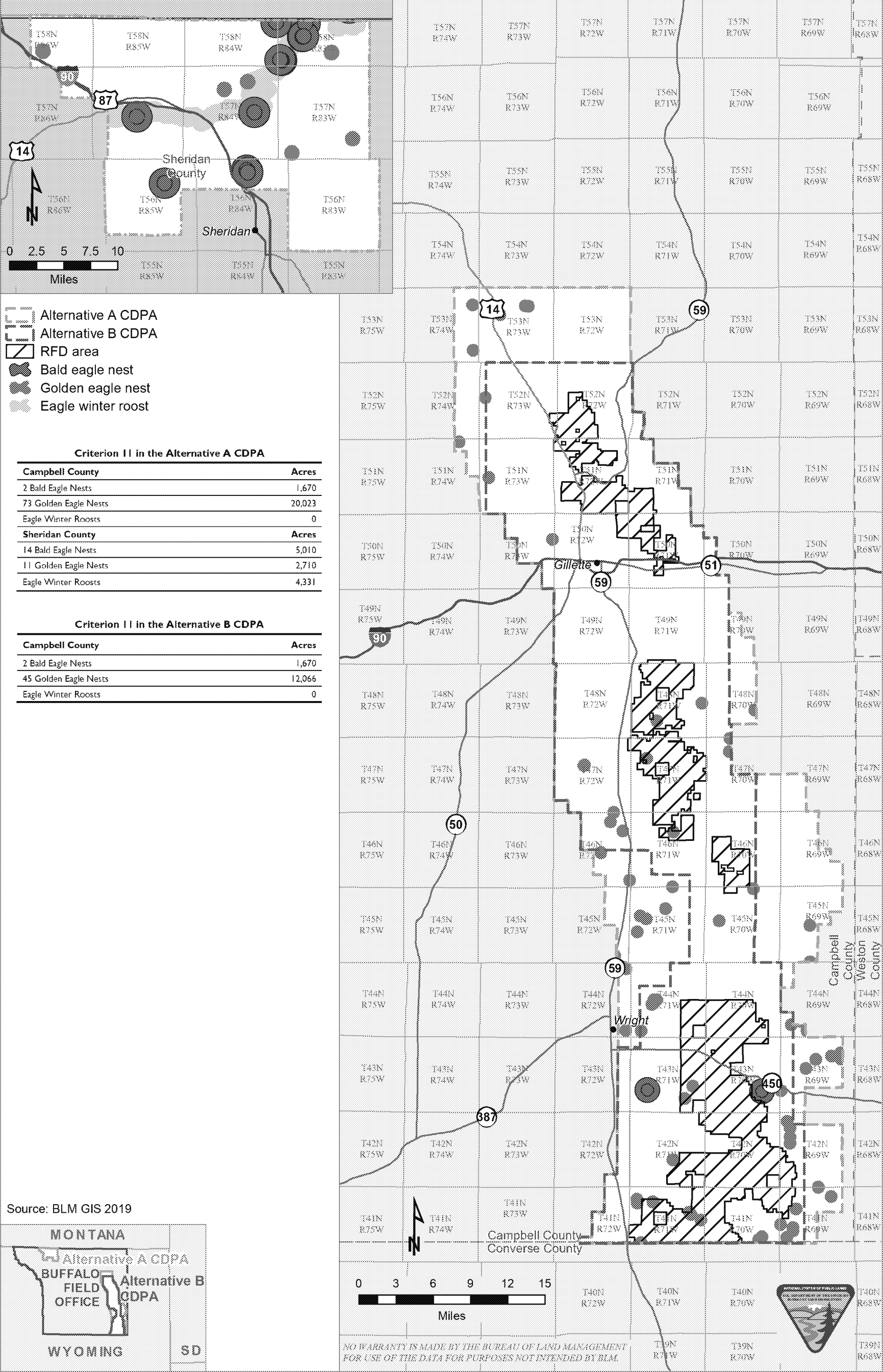


Figure A-8

Screen 2 Unsuitability Assessment:

Criterion 15 (Unsuitable With Exceptions)—Habitat for Species of State Interest

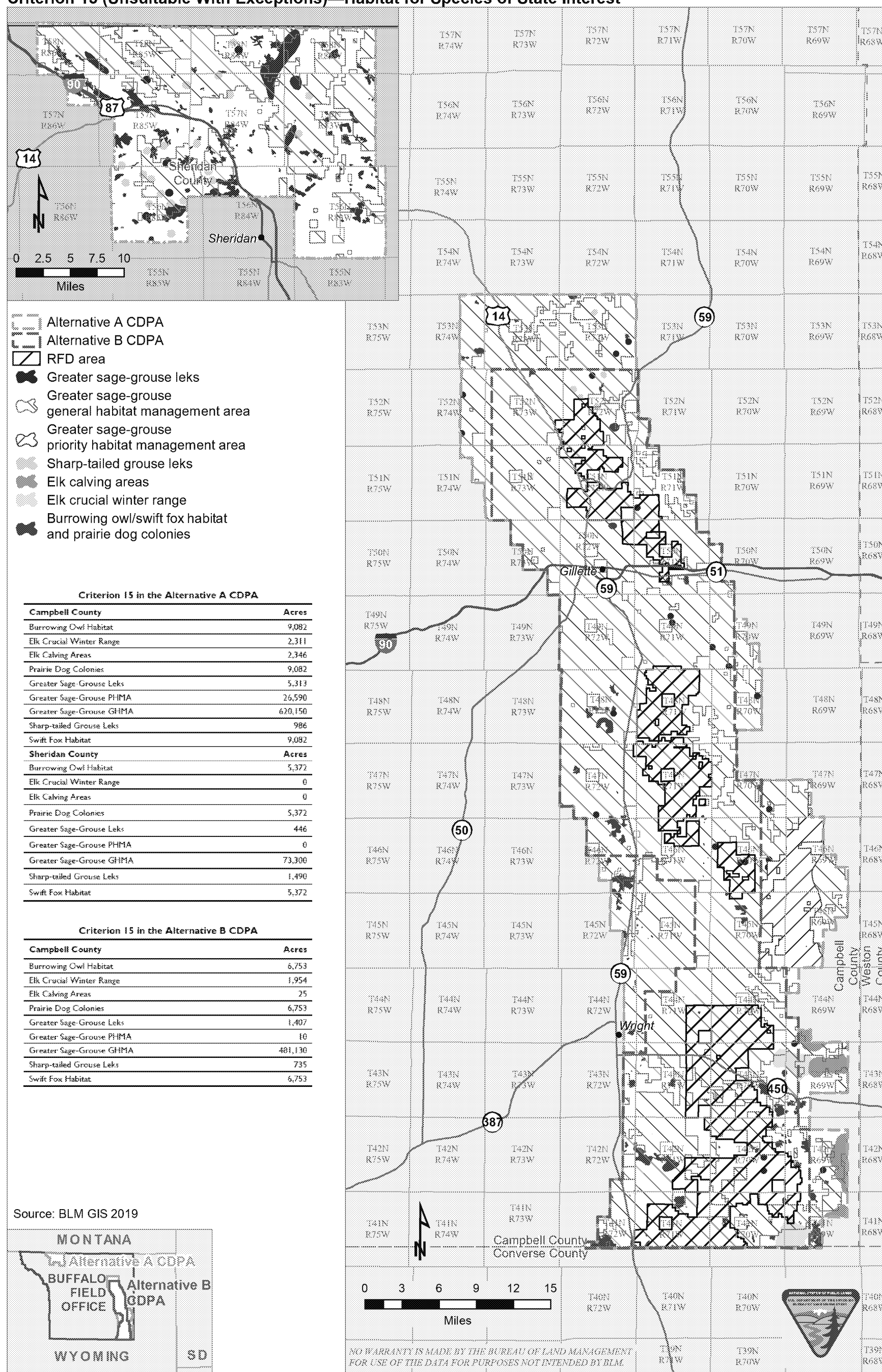


Figure A-9
Screen 2 Unsuitability Assessment:
Criterion 19 (Unsuitable Without Exceptions)—Alluvial Valley Floors

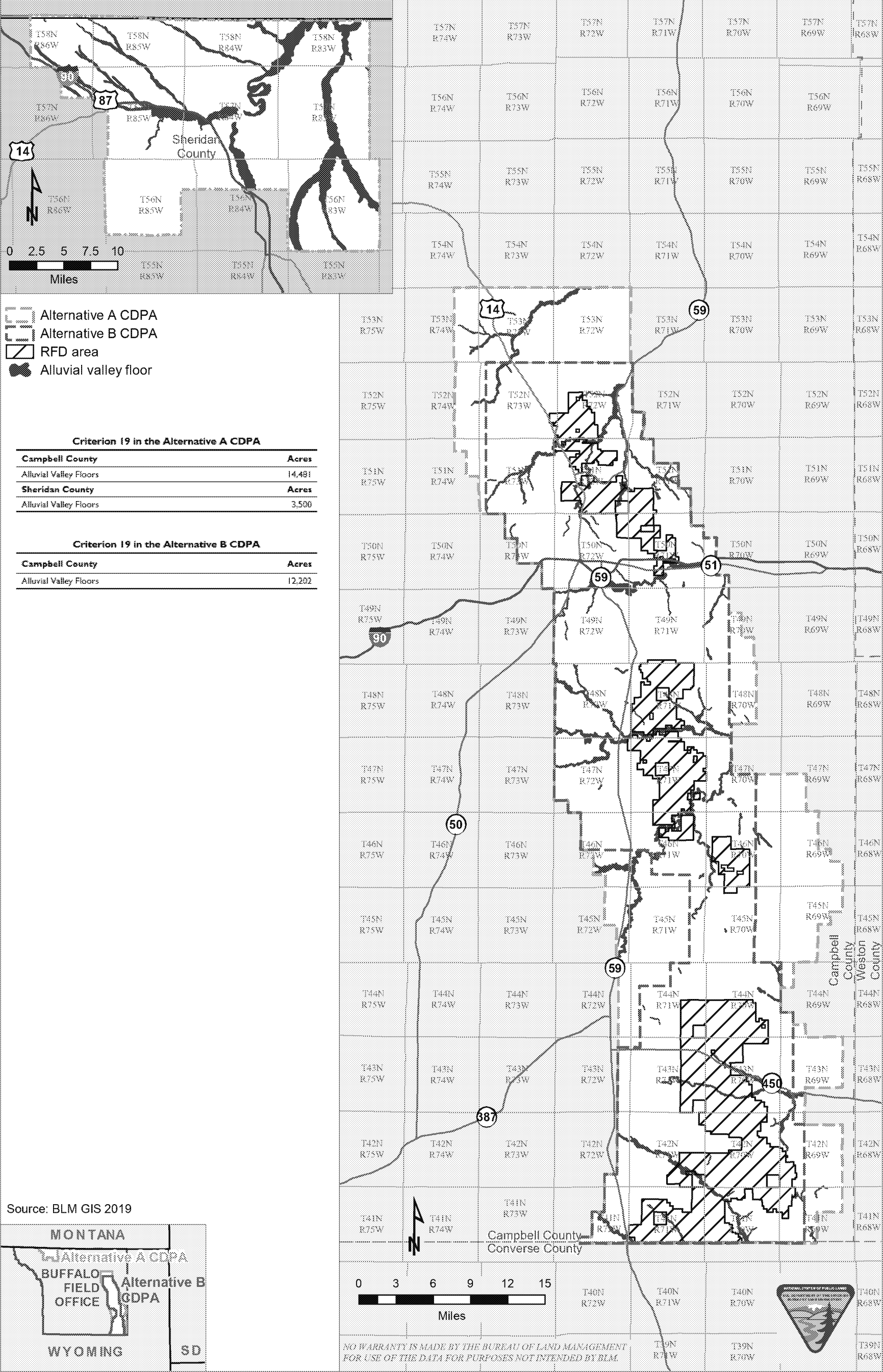
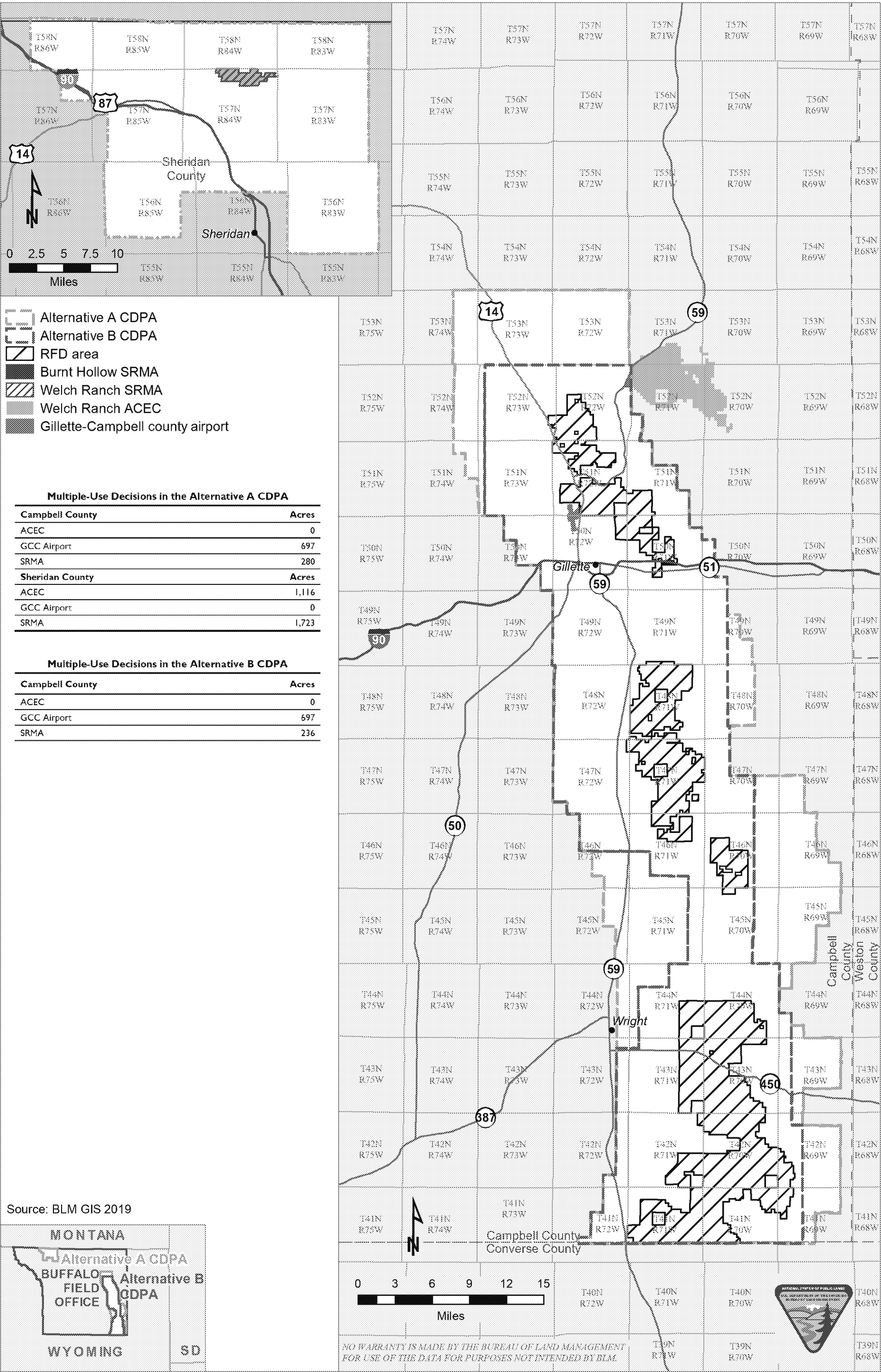


Figure A-10
Screen 3 Multiple-Use Decisions (Unacceptable for Leasing)



Attachment I
Sample Private Landowner Letter

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Buffalo Field Office

1425 Fort Street

Buffalo, WY 82834



In Reply Refer To:
1610

January 30, 2019

RE: Surface Owner Consultation Coal Screen – Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to the Approved Resource Management Plan for the Buffalo Field Office.

Dear Surface Owner:

On November 28, 2018, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a potential amendment to the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Buffalo Field Office and to prepare an associated Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). This potential amendment and associated SEIS is in response to a United States Montana District Court opinion and order (Western Organization of Resource Councils, et al vs BLM; CV 16-21-GF-BMM; 3/23/2018 and 7/31/2018).

In response to the order, the BLM is re-evaluating the four coal screens in accordance with 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e). The coal screens include: identification of coal development potential, 20 unsuitability criteria, multiple use conflicts, and surface owner consultation. The BLM has identified your private lands, which overlie federal coal deposits, as lands determined to have potential for coal development.

In accordance with 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e)(4)(i), BLM requests you notify the Buffalo Field Office in writing by **March 1, 2019** on the following information:

1. If you are a surface owner for lands within the coal development potential area identified on the attached map.
2. Your preference for or against mining by other than underground mining techniques on Enclosure 1.
3. Any additional information on your lands that would be beneficial in determining the suitability or unsuitability for coal leasing.

To facilitate this request, the BLM has enclosed a document, Enclosure 1, with the appropriate information being requested. Please use Enclosure 1 to notify the Buffalo Field Office on the points listed above, and return it by using the enclosed envelope by **March 1, 2019**.

Any views provided through this request may be used in the completion of the SEIS and may be available for public review. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold, from public view, your personal identifying information, we

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations, from businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, will be available for public review.

Because this is a planning document, lands considered under this SEIS would be analyzed to determine if they are acceptable for further considerations for coal leasing or unacceptable for further considerations for coal leasing. Leasing decisions would be considered under separate NEPA reviews when an application for leasing is submitted to the BLM. Therefore, the BLM would not be making leasing decisions at this time.

After review of the surface owner consultation responses, the SEIS will be prepared. BLM plans to have the SEIS available for public comment in spring 2019. The SEIS will be posted on the BLM e-Planning website, <https://go.usa.gov/xP6S3> or <https://eplanning.blm.gov>; where the project webpage can be found by conducting a land use plan text search for Wyoming, Buffalo Field Office. Updated information, and associated documents, are also posted on the e-Planning project website.

We look forward to hearing from you on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Bills, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (307) 684-1133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd D. Yeager", written over a horizontal line.

Todd D. Yeager
Field Manager

Enclosure 1 – Documentation of Surface Owner Consultation
Map – BLM Coal Development Potential Area, Campbell County

Enclosure 1.

Please returned to the Buffalo Field Office by March 1, 2019.

Please Check One:

☐ I am authorized to express my views as a qualified surface owner in accordance with 43 CFR 3400.0-5(gg), having met the following requirements; I hold legal or equitable title of this land surface. I have my principal residence on this land, or I personally farm or ranch on this land, or I receive a significant portion of my income from farm or ranch operations on this land. I have met the requirements since _____.

☐ I do not meet the requirements for a qualified surface owner in accordance with 43 CFR 3400.0-5(gg). Please explain below.

Please identify your view(s) on leasing as listed below by aliquot or group of land description also listed below. Multiple views can be identified by aliquot or group land description(s). Provide additional information on the reserve side.

1. I am in favor of leasing of federal coal on these lands. _____
2. I am against leasing of federal coal on these lands. _____
3. I am undecided in favor or opposed to federal coal leasing on these lands. _____
4. I have already given written consent for surface mining of federal coal on these lands. _____

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold, from public view, your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations, from businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, will be available for public review.

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BLM Coal Development Potential Boundary

